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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/891,920	06/26/2001	Kenneth A. Nicoll	8716.00	1995

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EXAMINER

HARBECK, TIMOTHY M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/891,920	Applicant(s) NICOLL ET AL.	
	Examiner Timothy M. Harbeck	Art Unit 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/27/2001</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 3-5 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 3, from which claims 4 and 5 depend, uses the term "the friction pick module," which does not have an antecedent basis. Claim 1 recites "a plurality of modules" but does not further differentiate said modules as either friction or vacuum type, just the pick mechanisms associated with the modules. The examiner, for the purposes of examination, has interpreted the at least one module associated with the friction pick mechanism as the "friction pick module." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Graef et al (hereinafter Graef, US 6,484,380 B2).

Re Claim 12: Graef discloses a media-dispensing module for use in a self-service terminal, the media dispensing module comprising:

- Means defining a media dispense path (Fig 1, See arrows related to Refs 54, 56, 60 and 62)

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- A plurality of media storage locations (Fig 1, Refs 44, 46, 48 and 50)
- A friction pick mechanism associated with each media storage location for picking media from the media storage location (Fig 1, Refs 34, 36, 38, and 40) and transferring picked media to the media dispense path (Fig 1, Refs 54, 56) for transporting media from the media dispensing module (Fig 1, Refs 60, 62, 68)

Re Claim 14: Graef discloses a method of dispensing media from a self-service terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

- Selectively removing media from one of a plurality of media storage locations disposed within a media dispense module (Column 7, lines 27-31)
- Presenting removed media to a user (Column 7 line 63- Column 8, line 15)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graef in view of Lynch et al (hereinafter Lynch, US 6,029,971).

Re Claim 1: Graef discloses a self-service terminal comprising:

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- A plurality of media dispensing modules (Fig 1, 44, 46, 48, 50; Column 7, lines 42-52)), each module operatively associated with a pick mechanism for picking media from the module (Fig 1, 34, 36, 38, 40; Column 7, lines 26-41) and transferring picked media to a media dispense path (Column 7, lines 53-62), wherein at least one of the modules being associated with a friction pick mechanism (See Fig 2 and description Column 8 line 39-Column 10 line 50; cites friction portions of picking mechanism)

In addition, Graef notes that ATMs can be used to dispense a variety of different medias including cash, tickets, scrip, vouchers or other documents (Column 1, lines 18-35). Furthermore, Graef discloses that the modules may hold a variety of different types of documents in the same machine (Column 7, lines 46-48).

Graef does not explicitly disclose at least one module being associated with a vacuum pick mechanism. Lynch discloses that sheet feeding apparatus, such as the one disclosed by Graef "are commonly of either the vacuum pick or friction pick type," and depending on the type of media involved cites the advantages and disadvantages for each (Column 1, lines 5-20). Some media as Lynch points out is better served with a friction mechanism (medias that need a high feed rate), while other media would be better served with a vacuum mechanism (high porous). Thus, it would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill at the time of invention to include the teachings of Lynch to the disclosure of Graef so that an ATM containing multiple media types, can distribute the different types of media in the most efficient and practical way possible.

Re Claim 2: Graef in view of Lynch discloses the claimed terminal and Lynch further discloses wherein the modules are removable (Column 2, lines 59-62). While not explicitly disclosing wherein the modules are also interchangeable, this step is notoriously well known in the art and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill, so that when a particular module is removed for service or for transport, it can be replaced with an interchangeable part and the machine can continue to function.

Re Claim 3: Graef in view of Lynch discloses the claimed terminal and Graef further discloses wherein the friction picking mechanism is contained within the friction-picking module (See Fig 1, Column 7, lines 34-35).

Re Claim 4: Graef in view of Lynch discloses the claimed terminal and Graef further discloses wherein the friction pick module comprises a plurality of friction pick units (Fig 1), each unit including a media storage location (Fig 1; 44, 46, 48, 50) and a friction pick mechanism (Fig 1 respectively 34, 36, 38, 40).

Re Claim 5: Graef in view of Lynch discloses the claimed terminal and Graef further discloses wherein the friction pick units share a common media exit path within the module and leading to the media dispense path (See Fig 1, process 54 across common path 56 to secondary transport 60; Column 7 lines 53-67).

Re Claim 6: Graef discloses a self-service terminal comprising:

- Means defining a media dispense path (Fig 1, See arrows related to Refs 54, 56, 60 and 62)

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- A friction pick mechanism (See Fig 1 Refs 34, 36, 38 and 40; See Fig 2 and description Column 8 line 39-Column 10 line 50; cites friction portions of picking mechanism)
- A plurality of media dispensing modules (Fig 1, 44, 46, 48, 50; Column 7, lines 42-52)), each media dispensing module operatively associated with a pick mechanism for picking media from the module (Fig 1, 34, 36, 38, 40; Column 7, lines 26-41) and transferring picked media to the media dispense path (Column 7, lines 53-62), wherein at least one of the modules being associated with a friction pick mechanism (See Fig 2 and description Column 8 line 39-Column 10 line 50; cites friction portions of picking mechanism)

In addition, Graef notes that ATMs can be used to dispense a variety of different medias including cash, tickets, scrip, vouchers or other documents (Column 1, lines 18-35). Furthermore, Graef discloses that the modules may hold a variety of different types of documents in the same machine (Column 7, lines 46-48).

Graef does not explicitly disclose at least one module being associated with a vacuum pick mechanism. Lynch discloses that sheet feeding apparatus, such as the one disclosed by Graef “are commonly of either the vacuum pick or friction pick type,” and depending on the type of media involved cites the advantages and disadvantages for each (Column 1, lines 5-20). Some media as Lynch points out is better served with a friction mechanism (medias that need a high feed rate), while other media would be better served with a vacuum mechanism (high porous). Thus, it would have been

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obvious to anyone of ordinary skill at the time of invention to include the teachings of Lynch to the disclosure of Graef so that an ATM can distribute different types of media in the most efficient and practical way possible.

Re Claim 7: Graef in view of Lynch discloses the claimed terminal and Lynch further discloses wherein the media dispensing modules are removable (Column 2, lines 59-62). While not explicitly disclosing wherein the modules are also interchangeable, this step is notoriously well known in the art and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill, so that when a particular module is removed for service or for transport, it can be replaced with an interchangeable part and the machine can continue to function.

Re Claim 8: Graef in view of Lynch discloses the claimed terminal and Graef further discloses wherein the friction picking mechanism is contained within the media-dispensing module associated with the friction-picking module (See Fig 1, Column 7, lines 34-35).

Re Claim 9: Graef in view of Lynch discloses the claimed terminal and Graef further discloses wherein the media-dispensing module associated with friction pick mechanism comprises a plurality of friction pick units (Fig 1), each unit including a media storage location (Fig 1; 44, 46, 48, 50) and a friction pick mechanism (Fig 1 respectively 34, 36, 38, 40).

Re Claim 10: Graef in view of Lynch discloses the claimed terminal and Graef further discloses wherein the friction pick units share a common media exit path which

is within the media dispensing module and leads to the media dispense path (See Fig 1, process 54 across common path 56 to secondary transport 60; Column 7 lines 53-67).

Re Claim 11: Graef discloses a self-service terminal comprising:

- Means defining a media dispense path (Fig 1, See arrows related to Refs 54, 56, 60 and 62)
- A number of media dispensing modules, at least one media dispensing module including a plurality of media storage locations (Fig 1; 44, 46, 48, and 50) and a friction pick mechanism operatively associated with each media storage location for picking media from the media storage location (Fig 1, 34, 36, 38, 40) and transferring picked media to the media dispense path (Fig 1, Ref 54, 56)

Graef does not explicitly disclose wherein the media dispensing modules are removable, however Lynch discloses a self service terminal wherein the modules are removable (Column 2, lines 59-62). It would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include the teachings of Lynch to the disclosure of Graef so that said modules can be taken from the machine to either be refilled or taken to a remote location for deposit or reconciliation with records related to transactions at the machine.

Re Claim 13: Graef discloses the claimed media-dispensing module but does not explicitly disclose means for enabling the media-dispensing module to be removed and interchangeable. Lynch discloses a self service terminal wherein the modules are removable (Column 2, lines 59-62). It would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary

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skill in the art at the time of invention to include the teachings of Lynch to the disclosure of Graef so that said modules can be taken from the machine to either be refilled or taken to a remote location for deposit or reconciliation with records related to transactions at the machine.

While the references do not explicitly disclose wherein the modules are also interchangeable, this step is notoriously well known in the art and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill, so that when a particular module is removed for service or for transport, it can be replaced with an interchangeable part and the machine can continue to function.

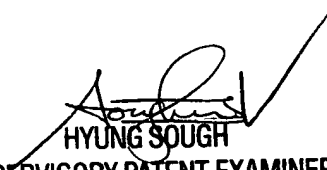
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy M. Harbeck whose telephone number is 571-272-8123. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on 571-272-6799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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